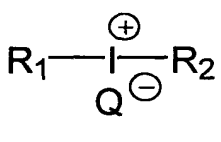
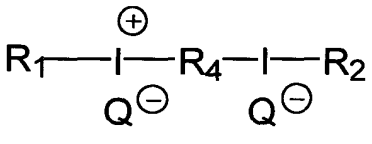
A) **Amendments to the Claims:**

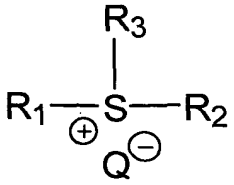
1. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt derivative which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (1) through (4):



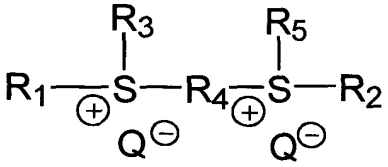
(1)



(2)



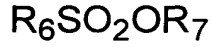
(3)



(4)

wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_5 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3, and R_2 and R_5 may together form a divalent organic group; R_4 represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion ~~or a C≤10 carboxylate anion~~,

with an ester compound which has an alkyl group R_7 and which is represented by any one of formulas (5) through (7):



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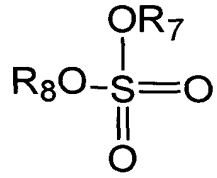

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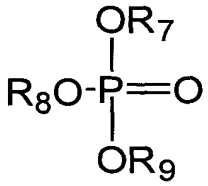
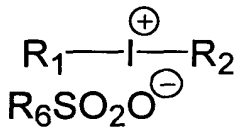


(6)

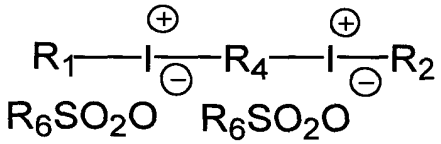
wherein R_6 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; R_7 represents an alkyl group, ~~a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups~~ having ≤5 ~~10~~ carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of R_8 and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a

perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted,

to thereby ~~yield~~ form R_7Q through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R7 of the ester comound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by an one of $R_6SO_2O^-$, $PO_4R_8R9^-$, and $R_8SO_4^-$ derived from the ester comound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt, an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (8) through (19).



(8)



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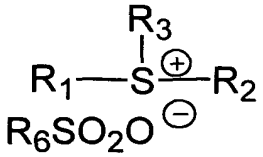

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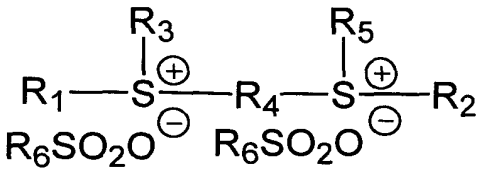

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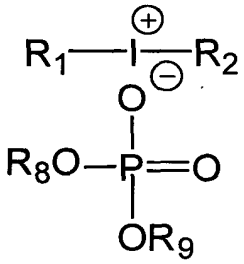

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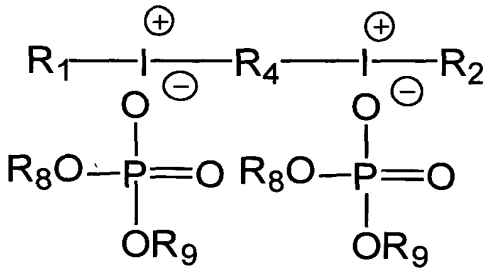

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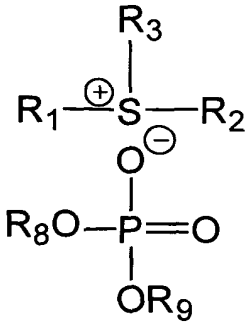

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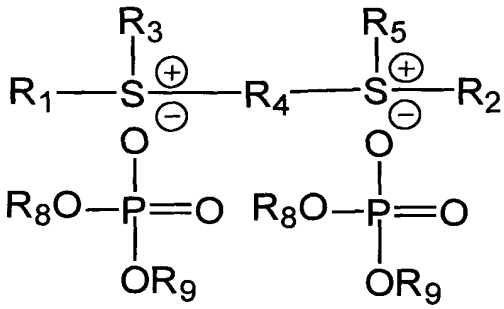

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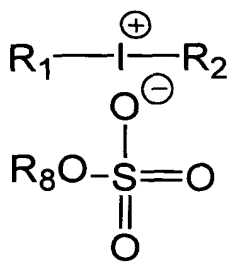

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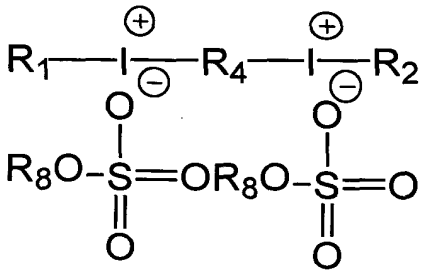

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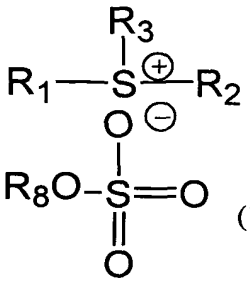

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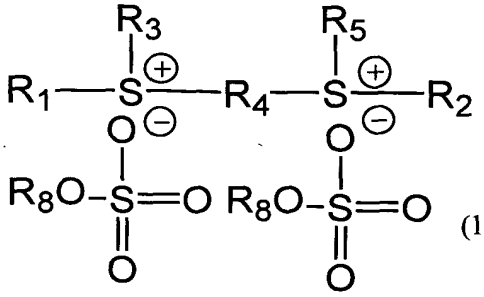


(19)

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1, wherein reaction is carried out while removing generated R_7Q from the reaction system.

4. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

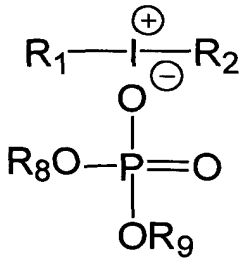
7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

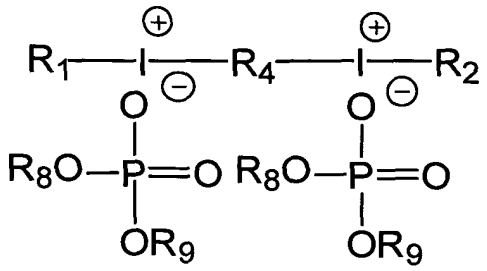
9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

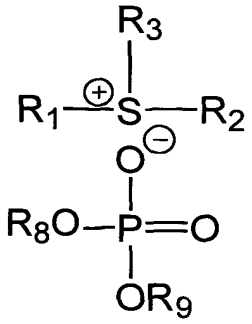
11. (currently amended) ~~A novel~~ An onium compound which has a phosphate derivative as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (12) through (15):



(12)



(13)



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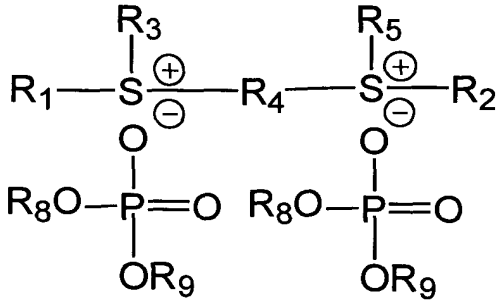
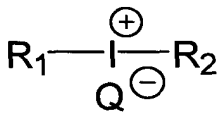


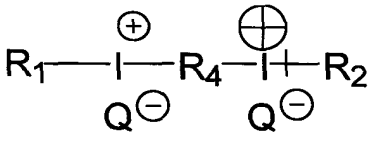
(15)

wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_5 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3, and R_2 and R_5 may together form a divalent organic group; R_4 represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and each of R_8 and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted.

12. (new) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of the following formulas (1) through (4):



(1)



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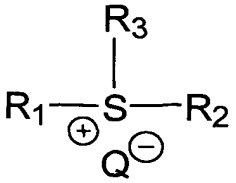

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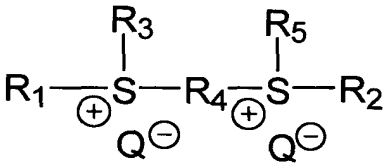
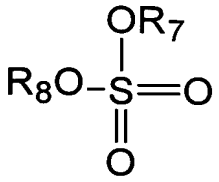


(4)

wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_5 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of R_1 and R_3, and R_2 and R_5 may together form a divalent organic group; R_4 represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion or a C≤10 carboxylate anion,

with an ester compound which has an alkyl group R_7 and which is represented by any one of formulas (6) or (7):



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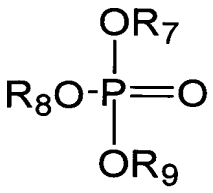


(6)

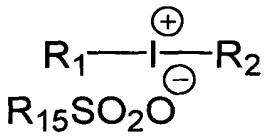
wherein R_7 represents an alkyl group, having ≤5 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of R_8, and R_9 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted;

to thereby form R_7Q through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R7 of the ester comound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by an one of R_6SO_2O-, PO_4R_8R9-, and R_8SO_4- derived from the ester comound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt, an onium salt derivative and with a sulfonic acid derivative represented by formula (24):

$$R_{15}SO_2OY \quad (24)$$

wherein R_{15} represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and Y represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, or ammonium,

to thereby cause salt exchange and yield an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (25) through (28).



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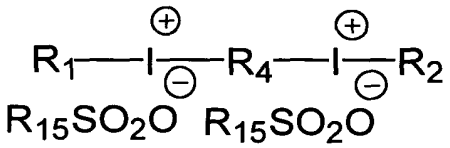

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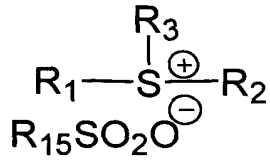

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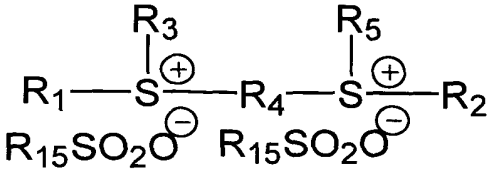

(28)

13. (new) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 12, wherein each of R_7, R_8 and R_9 is a methyl group or an ethyl group.